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Aug. 13, 1924 Aug. 4 to 9, '24

THOS. F. MULLEN

TITLE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Character of case:

I. W. W. ORGANIZATION

CONDITION, ETC.

~~FACTS DEVELOPED~~

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

The present condition of the I. W. W. General Organization is badly disrupted, and split. There is a fight on between two factions of the organization - the result being that JAMES ROWAN, CHARLES ANDERSON, P.D. RYAN, FRED BOWERMAN, and HARRY TROTTER - all members of the G.E.B., have been expelled, or suspended until the next general convention. All of these members were ejected from the headquarters by force, and gun play. Funds of the I. W. W. Organization in Chicago completely tied up at the bank. Cause for disruption, as expressed by the I. W. W. Officials, among many other reasons is the functioning power, or authority of the Chairman of the G.E.B., and Secretary-Treasurer of the General Organization. The true reason, from what information Agent has at hand, is the underground work of FOSTER, and members of the RED TRADE UNION INTERNATIONAL of MOSCOW, and their tactics, boring from within.

DETAILS:

Due to the misunderstanding, and split over the construction

of several provisions of the constitution of the I.W.W., and that part referring to

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

REFERENCE:

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 15 1924 P.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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JACKETED:

the organization, and function of the general executive board.

The following members of the G.E.B. of the I. W. W. have been suspended until the matter is fully presented to the next general convention.

JAMES ROWAN, Lumber Workers Industrial Union No. 120

CHARLES ANDERSON, Metal & Coal Miners Industrial Unions
210 and 220.

P. D. RYAN, General Construction Workers Industrial
Union No. 310

FRED W. BOWERMAN, Metal & Machinery Workers Industrial Union
No. 440.

HARRY (HOOK) TROTTER, Railroad Workers Industrial Union No. 520

The reason, as given by Secretary-Treasurer TOM DOTLE, and the General Organizer, and Chairman of the G.E.B. - JOE FISHER, for this disruption and split, are as follows:

1. Has the chairman of any organization body a vote?
2. Has the General Organizer a vote on the G.E.B.?
3. Do chairman of Industrial Unions constitute the G.E.B. without the General Organizers, and does each and every component part of the G.E.B. have equal rights and privileges?
4. Have G. O. C. chairman the right to insist that strictly Organization matter of a controversial nature be printed in the Industrial Worker, or Industrial Solidarity?
5. Are convention rulings not affecting the organic law null and void (Art. 5, Sec. 2. The convention of the Industrial Workers of the World is the legislative body of the organization, and its enactments are of legal force when sustained by a referendum vote of the membership touching any and all amendments to the organic law which the convention may adopt.
This clearly signifies that conventions made rules other than the organic law in the Constitution and By-Laws.)
6. Should individual members be permitted to go outside of organization channels and circularize the rank and file on controversial matter?
7. Can five G.O.C. chairman remove an official of the General Administration elected by a rank and file vote of the entire membership?

8. Do you believe that Industrial Unions without G.O.C. Chairman are entitled to representation on the G.E.B. through their Secretaries?
9. Did the General Administration do right in suspending Blossom, Lorton and Quinlan, according to the ruling of the 1923 Convention which is as follows:

"Moved and seconded, That if any member, or members hereafter carry on this or any other controversy outside of the regular channels as laid down by the 1922 Convention, and re-affirmed by this Convention they shall have their cards taken up and be immediately suspended from the I.W.W. until the next Convention. AMENDMENT (Griffith-Lance): That in case Blossom, Kane or any other of the parties involved in this controversy, do not abide by the decision of this convention they shall stand immediately expelled, Motion and Amendment carried."

10. Do you think it would be wise for the General Administration to accept the decision of the rank and file on the above enumerated questions and carry them out in practice?
11. Do you want a special convention?

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The above questions have been printed in a Special Office Bulletin, dated August 1, 1924, and sent broadcast to the rank and file of the I. W. W. for their information, and decision in the matter.

The majority report of the G.E.B. on the above matter, which appears in special bulletin above referred to, and copy of which is attached to the Washington copy of this report, was signed by the following - all of whom were instrumental in causing the suspension of the five members mentioned above from the General Organization:

TOM DOYLE, General Secretary-Treasurer, member of the AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION No. 110.

JOSEPH FISHER, General Organizer, and Chairman of the G.E.B. - member of the AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION No. 110.

JAMES MORRIS, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer - member of the MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION No. 510.

ARTHUR LINN, G.E.B. Member, and member of the AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 110.

CHARLES GIBSON, G.E.B. Member, and member of the OIL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 230.

JAMES GILDAY, representing the MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 510.

PEO. MONOLDI, representing MILL & CONSTRUCTION WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION No. 330.

After expelling the five members of the G.E.B. above mentioned, the majority of the G.E.B. summarily evicted them from the general headquarters of the organization, located at 1001 West Madison Street, Chicago.

It is the intention of the I. W. W. Officials, now in possession of 1001 West Madison Street, Chicago, to deny the five expelled members admittance to the general offices, pending the action of a next general, or special convention of the I.W.W. Unless a special convention is called by the rank, and file to settle this matter, it is not expected that a general convention will be called before the Fall of 1925, or 1926. As the last convention gave the G.E.B. power to postpone the holding of a convention, due to the great cost, and expense attached to the convention, and due to the lack of funds of the General Organization, this will probably mean that a special convention will be called, and this, in all probability, will be within the next two or three months, according to conversation Agent had with Secretary-Treasurer DOYLE.

As a result of this disruption, or split the G.E.B. has also passed a resolution withdrawing the autonomy of the METAL & MACHINERY WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 440, and the RAILROAD WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 520. This means that all of the affairs of these two Industrial Unions will be handled under the immediate supervision of the G.E.B. This move was made ostensibly to save the over-head expense of administering these two organizations, by eliminating the

paid offices of Secretary-Treasurer, and Chairman of the G.O.C. of each of these Unions. However, the real motive for again taking both of these Industrial Unions under the control of the G.E.B., was to eliminate the incumbents of these offices viz: MIKE RADDOCK, Secretary-Treasurer, FRED W. BOWERMAN, General Organization Committee Chairman of the INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 440, and HARRY TROTTER, G.O.C. Committee Chairman of INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 520. These three parties, together with ROWAN RYAN, and ANDERSON are looked upon as the leaders of the disrupting force of the organization. Due to this recent disruption, JUSTUS EBERT, who was formerly editor of the INDUSTRIAL PIONEER, has resigned, and VERNE SMITH, was editor of the INDUSTRIAL SOLIDARITY, has been directed to take charge of the editorial work of the INDUSTRIAL PIONEER in connection with that of the INDUSTRIAL SOLIDARITY.

At this point, Agent desires to state, that from information obtained from a reliable source - VERNE SMITH is attending meetings held by FOSTER, HARRISON GEORGE, MIKE NOVAK, and HUGH RICHARDS.

The majority of members of the G.E.B. have charged both RADDOCK and BOWERMAN as being under-cover men for some sort of an investigating agency, and RADDOCK is further charged with having been an agent of the Military Intelligence during the war. It is claimed by the five ousted members of the G.E.B. that they are the legal G.E.B. members of the I. W. W., and, as such, are demanding the support and loyalty of the entire membership of the organization. They will receive, no doubt, the support of a large number of the members of the organization, and principally the members of the various Industrial Unions, whom they represent. If this occurs, it will, no doubt, bring about a definite and almost irreparable split of the organization.

TOM DOYLE, in conversation with Agent, stated that at the present

time, it looks very bad for the organization, but that he, and JOE FISHER and other members of the G.E.B. claim that they are in the right, and will not retract one step in this argument and that, in all probability, it will have a tendency to greatly weaken the I. W. W. Organization.

ROWAN, TROTTER, and the other three expelled members of the organization, claimed that all this trouble was brought about by the boring from within methods of the Communists, or the Red Trade Union International of Moscow, and charged FOSTER, HARRISON GEORGE, MIKE NOVAK, VERNE SMITH, and HUGH RICHARDS as the prime movers in bringing about the trouble. These last five men mentioned are said to be members of the Red International Affiliation Committee, which was commissioned by the Red Trade Union International to spread propaganda amongst the members of the I.W.W., which would ultimately bring about an affiliation of the I.W.W. with the Red Trade Union International of Moscow.

The funds of the General Organization, and all the various Industrial Unions located in Chicago, and which funds are deposited in the Mid-City Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago, have been tied up - the Bank refusing to honor checks of either faction. This, too, is having its disturbing effect on the entire organization.

The five ousted members of the G.E.B. have opened up a new headquarters at 2115 Warren Avenue, Chicago, and it is said that they are planning aggressive steps to capture the organization as a whole, or split it in two.

As stated above, JOE FISHER, and TOM DOYLE are just as firm, and stated that the organization will, no doubt, be split, since the ousted members must stand expelled until such a time as the entire matter is presented, and acted upon by the convention of the I. W. W.

The I. W. W. Headquarters seem to be in possession at the present time of the AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION, who have placed groups about all entrances to the building, and questioned practically everyone that attempts to enter the building, before allowing them to do so.

A further report on this matter will follow.

CONTINUED.